

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are all of the pending claims. Claims 6, 7, 18 and 19 are amended. Claim 20 is cancelled.

In addition to the amendments to claims 18-20, as suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have also amended claims 6 and 7 to correct minor informalities.

I. Restriction Requirement:

As per the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse the invention of Group I, claims 1-7.

The Examiner alleges that inventions I, II, and III are distinct from each by stating that "In the instant case the obvious method of operating the apparatus of claims 1 and 15 is different from the method of claim 8." Applicants disagree.

Applicants would like to remind that the Examine has already examined the apparatus of claim 1 and its dependent claims and the method of claim 8 and its dependent claims. If the original claims were not distinct the first time, then the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are still not distinct.

Applicants further assert there is no burden on the Examiner, as all the previous claims have been examined.

The Applicants respectfully request examination of all the claims.

CONCLUSION

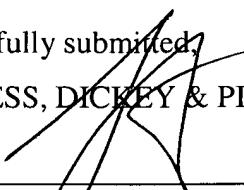
In view of the above remarks, withdraw of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below. If the Examiner believes that a personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at

Appl. No. 10/799,733
Docket No. 2557-000201/US

(703) 668-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By _____
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